CBS NEWS
A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
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Dear Mr. Warren:

I am pleased and hopeful to learn from Milton Starr of your willingness to consider a filmed conversation for CBS News.

It might be helpful to explain briefly why I think such a discussion is important at this time and why I am anxious to arrange an exploratory meeting with you as soon as possible.

The idea is simple, really. As a nation, we seem embarked on a kind of self-examination made urgent by a crisis of leadership and made appropriate by the 200th anniversary of the American revolution.

It seems vital to me that this dialogue be lifted beyond partisan politics and patriotic rhetoric, that we seek and find fresh perceptions of our past and present.

Many of the themes that come to mind are those that you have thought and written about, themes that bear directly on our national life and its direction.

What I have in mind is a wide-ranging yet informal talk between you and Eric Sevareid for national television that could be filmed in Vermont or Connecticut in the space of three or four days.

I am aware that you prefer not to consider this before September. What I seek now is the opportunity to discuss it with you for an hour or so now, wherever it is convenient for you, so that we could determine its feasibility.

I would appreciate your letting me know either by mail or telephone if this is possible. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Irv Drasnin
Producer

Mr. Robert Penn Warren
2495 Redding Road
Fairfield, Connecticut

May 13, 1974